

INTEGRATED ACCESS POINT NETWORK DEVICE

Abstract

A communication device integrates traffic monitoring, policy configuration and
5 enforcement, and proxy services within the device. The policies can affect both
prioritization of data as well as allocation of communication bandwidth. Data packets
that are accepted at the device are classified according to a set of defined classes and are
transmitted through the device according to a policy for prioritization and bandwidth
allocation for the classes. Optionally, some of the packets are passed to a proxy
10 application hosted in the communication device. The device functions as a link-layer
bridge, thereby allowing the device to be inserted into a data path without reconfiguring
network layer software at devices that use that data path. The device includes operating
modes in which packets are passed through the device without modification.

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